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COUNTRY	USSR
SUBJECT	Economic
HOW PUBLISHED	Periodical
WHERE PUBLISHED	Moscow
DATE PUBLISHED	22 November 1947
LANGUAGE	Russian
DATE OF INFORMATION	1947
DATE DIST.	December 1948
NO. OF PAGES	3
SUPPLEMENT TO	

12113

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SOURCE IDENTIFICATION Planovoye Khozyaystvo, No 5, September-October 1947. (FDB Per Abs 17C26 -- Information specifically requested.)

THIRTY YEARS OF SOVIET ECONOMY

The Soviet government inherited from old Russia an economy which lagged a century behind that of other countries. Stalin pointed out that "We lagged 50-100 years behind the leading countries. We must bridge the gap in 10 years. Either we do this, or we will be crushed." Threats to the security of the country, as well as internal conditions, dictated the necessity for speedy industrialization.

The Soviet method of industrialization, founded by Stalin, is based on the theory that industrialization should proceed from the development of heavy industry, rather than by building up light industry, as is customary in capitalist countries. The successful realization of the Stalin Five-Year Plans led to the transformation of the country from an agrarian, technically lagging, poorly defended country to a well-defended, completely independent, leading industrial power.

The following statistics will give some idea of the growth of Soviet industry.

Gross industrial production in 1940 was valued at 138.5 billion rubles. Production by heavy industry increased nearly 12 times as compared with 1913, while the manufacture of means of production increased 17 times as compared with 1913. The manufacture of machinery in 1940 was 54 times greater than in 1913.

The Soviet Union was completely freed of economic dependence on capitalist countries. This is reflected in the changes in the USSR's export-import situation. In pre-Revolutionary Russia, about half the machinery and all the more complex equipment was imported. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, only about one percent of the machinery was imported, and some Soviet-made machinery even began to be exported.

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The socialist reconstruction of agriculture relieved the country of the need of importing cotton. One half of all the cotton used in pre-Revolutionary Russia had to be imported.

By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, four fifths of all industrial production was being carried on in plants which were built or reconstructed during the First and Second Five-Year Plans. The productive apparatus of our industry is the youngest in the world and, consequently, the most advanced.

Successful industrialization is one of the most important prerequisites for the collectivization of agriculture. The basic majority of individual farms were united into collective farms as early as the First Five-Year Plan. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, 93 percent of the individual farms and 99 percent of all sown areas had been collectivized. The 240,000 collective farms in existence in 1940 had replaced the 25 million individual farms which existed before collectivization. More than 7,000 machine-tractor stations, with an aggregate power of over 8 million horsepower, were created to serve nine tenths of the sown area of all the kolkhoz. There were 523,000 tractors, 182,000 combines, and more than 200,000 motor vehicles in 1940.

Sown area in 1940 reached 150.4 million hectares, representing an increase of one and one-half times over that of 1913. The introduction of agrotechnology and the use of mineral fertilizers resulted in a yield of 38.8 million tons of marketable grain, or 17 million tons more than in 1913. A permanent raw-materials base was also created for the light and food industries.

Unemployment in the cities and pauperism in rural areas were eliminated as a result of the realization of the First Five-Year Plan. This represented a fundamental improvement in the material welfare of the workers. The millions of unemployed in pre-Revolutionary Russia had dwindled to none by 1931 as a result of the speedy development of industry and construction under Soviet power. The rural population of Russia prior to 1917 was 65 percent poor people, 20 percent middle class, and 15 percent kulaks. Party policy in the rural areas after the Revolution limited the growth of the kulak class, and as a result of aid to the poor, the middle class began to develop. In 1928-1929, before the full development of collectivization, the poor comprised 35 percent, the middle class 60 percent and the kulaks 4-5 percent in the rural areas. Only after complete collectivization was pauperism entirely eliminated.

Special emphasis was given to the development of State labor reserves, (young workers of base qualifications in factory-plant training schools and trade schools. This system of State labor reserves, created in 1940 by Stalin, has prepared more than 3 million people for our industry. State labor reserves were especially important during World War II in supplying qualified workers to industry.

There were only 91 higher educational institutions with an enrollment of 112,000 before 1917, while in 1940 there were 800 such institutions with 582,000 students. The number of students enrolled during the 1946-1947 school year in these institutions was 650,000. There were 3,800 technical schools with an enrollment of 620,000 in 1940; the enrollment in the 1946-47 school year was over a million. Hundreds of thousands of others studied through the correspondence schools.

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[illegible] educational institutions 1,200,000 between 1939 and 1946. Secondary schools also have increased tremendously.

The rise in the national economy and culture of union and autonomous republics achieved during the Stalin Five-Year Plans is one of the outstanding results of socialist structure in the USSR.

The rate of industrial development of the national republics has significantly increased the average rate throughout the Soviet Union as a whole, and this has resulted in these republics' overcoming their industrial backwardness. In 1937, for example, production of the large-scale metal-processing industry of the USSR was 23.3 times greater than in 1913, while it increased 54 times in the Uzbek SSR and 63 times in the Kazakh SSR during this same period.

At present, industry in the formerly backward national republics occupies an important place in the general industry of the USSR. Ore-mining, metallurgy and the coal industries in Kazakhstan, the cotton-processing industry in the Uzbek SSR, and others are among the more important industrial bases of the Soviet Union.

Advanced mechanized agriculture has been created in these republics. The total power of the tractor park of the Uzbek SSR, by the beginning of the Third Five-Year Plan, was 443,500 horsepower.

Industrialization of the country and socialist agricultural reforms have been the basis of the rise in the material and cultural level of the people of the national republics. One of the outstanding examples of this is the Tadzhik SSR, where before 1917 there were only 400 students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools, while in 1938-39 there were 252,000. In these same years, there were five higher educational institutions, 51 technical schools, 13 theaters, and 123 clubs.

Soviet power has fostered the development of the cultures of all the people of the USSR -- national in form and socialist in content.

World War II having been brought to a successful conclusion, the Soviet people are realizing the new Five Year Plan of restoration and development of the national economy of the USSR. Gross production of all industry during 9 months of 1947 increased 18 percent over the same period of 1946, while in the third quarter of 1947 alone it was 25 percent higher than in the third quarter of 1946. The 9-month gross production plan for the entire Soviet industry was completed 103 percent. As a result of favorable climatic conditions and the best organization of agricultural work the total 1947 grain-crop harvest, rose 38 percent over that of 1946. The volume of capital work for 9 months of 1947 was 6 percent higher than for the same period of 1946.

Production output of Soviet industry in October, 194 , attained the 1940 average monthly level.

The Soviet people are preparing to complete the postwar Stalin Five-Year Plan in 4 years. During the next 15 years, they must effect an industrial rise which will permit double the industrial production of 1940, increase pig-iron production to 50 million tons, coal mining to 500 million tons, and petroleum extraction to 60C million tons.

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